



# TEACH Grant

## Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant

The TEACH Grant is a federally-funded program created to help college students who plan to teach, pay for college. These grants are available to eligible undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students who agree to serve as full-time teachers in high-need fields at schools that serve students from low income families. The information below will help you understand the program qualifications and requirements.

### Applicant Qualifications:

A grant recipient must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled<sup>1</sup> as:
  - an undergraduate student; or
  - a graduate student; or
  - a post-baccalaureate student in a program required by the State to obtain a teaching credential at a college that does not offer a baccalaureate degree in education.

- Be enrolled<sup>1</sup> in or plan to enroll in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching.

<sup>1</sup> Not all colleges and universities participate in the TEACH Grant program. A list of TEACH Grant eligible colleges and universities can be accessed from the Scholarships & Grants section of our website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov). If you are interested in the TEACH Grant, please contact the financial aid office at your school.

### Academic Standards<sup>2</sup>:

Applicants must meet one of the two following academic achievement requirements:

- Maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA on 4.0 scale.
  - Eligibility for first-year college students is based on high school cumulative GPA.
- Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on at least one of the battery in an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate program admissions test.



### IMPORTANT

If you don't fulfill the required teaching service, your TEACH Grants will become unsubsidized Direct Stafford loans that must be repaid with interest accrued from the original award date!

More information on how to locate percentiles for test batteries can be accessed from our website at:

[www.iowacollegeaid.gov/commissioncentral/schgrants/fedgrants.html](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/commissioncentral/schgrants/fedgrants.html).

<sup>2</sup> The academic achievement requirements described here do not apply to graduate degree candidates who are current teachers or retirees from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field.

### Application Process:

An applicant must:

- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Complete a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (see additional information on reverse side).

A recipient must:

- Participate in TEACH Grant counseling before each annual award and graduation.

## Iowa College Student Aid Commission

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Phone: 877-272-4456 • Fax: 515-725-3401

Email: [info@iowacollegeaid.gov](mailto:info@iowacollegeaid.gov) • Website: [www.iowacollegeaid.gov](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov)



## Award Amounts:

- Maximum of \$4,000 per year - amount is reduced for students enrolled less than full time in accordance with a schedule established by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE)
  - TEACH Grant plus other financial aid may not exceed cost of attendance (COA)
- Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate (non-graduate) combined aggregate total maximum of \$16,000
- Graduate aggregate total maximum of \$8,000

## Additional Information:

### • High-Need Fields

The high-need fields<sup>3</sup> recognized for the TEACH Grant are as follows:

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialists
- Science
- Special Education
- Other teacher shortage areas identified at the time you begin teaching

<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Department of Education publishes a nationwide listing of teacher shortage areas in each state. You can access this list from the Scholarship & Grants section of our website at: [www.iowacollegeaid.gov/commissioncentral/schgrants/highneedfields.html](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/commissioncentral/schgrants/highneedfields.html).

### • USDE-Designated Low Income Schools

The U.S. Department of Education's *Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation* designates schools that serve low-income students. Those schools meet the TEACH Grant requirement to teach at public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students.

- You can access a link to this directory from the Scholarship & Grants section of our website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).

### • The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve

The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve provides the conditions under which the grant will be awarded and the teaching service requirements. According to the agreement, a grant recipient must:

- Serve as a full-time teacher for a total of not less than four academic years within eight years of completing a teaching program.
- Be a highly qualified teacher<sup>4</sup> at a U.S. Department of Education (USDE)-designated low-income public or private non-profit elementary or secondary school.
- Carry out the teaching service requirement within a high-need field.
- Provide evidence of required employment, certified by the chief administrative officer of the school, after each year of service.
- Meet any additional requirements that the USDE deems necessary.

The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve also includes the acknowledgment by the recipient that the failure to complete the teaching service requirement will result in the award amount being converted to an unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan, to be repaid with interest accruing from the first disbursement date of the grant.

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Department of Education defines "highly qualified teacher" in Section 901 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. You can access a link to this information from the Scholarship & Grants section of our website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).

## Your Financial Aid Connection

If you have questions after reviewing this guide, or if you would like more information on planning, preparing and paying for college, please contact us. We will connect you to the information and resources you need to make college a success! You may reach us at:

Phone: 877-272-4456

Email: [info@iowacollegeaid.gov](mailto:info@iowacollegeaid.gov)

Website: [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov)

